

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01165 161850Z

70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 OPIC-12 RSR-01 NSC-10 L-03 /134 W

----- 105161

R 152150Z AUG 73

FM AMAMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6075

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1165

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN XL PC

SUBJ: CARICOM: GOA ANNOUNCES ANTIGUA WILL NOT JOIN

REF: BRIDGETOWN 0932

1. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, GOA PREMIER GEORGE WALTER STATED AT A PUBLIC MEETING 13 THAT THE GOA WOULD NOT JOIN CARICOM. BOTH ANTIGUA AND MONTserrat REFUSED TO SIGN THE GEORGETOWN ACCORD, BUT ANTIGUA HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO RECONSIDER AND ACCEDE BY MAY 1974, ALONG WITH THE OTHER LDCS (WIAS AND BELIZE). DISCUSSING HIS REASON FOR NOT SIGNING THE GEORGETOWN ACCORD, WALTER STATED ITS CONDITIONS WOULD HAVE REQUIRED A "MANDATE" TO DO SO SINCE IT MEANT THE GOA WOULD HAVE TO PUT CARIBBEAN INTERESTS AHEAD OF THOSE OF ANTIGUA. IN ADDITION, ANTIGUA WOULD HAVE HAD TO BUY INFERIOR GOODS AT HIGHER PRICES FROM THE MDCS RATHER THAN IMPORTING FROM NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE "WHERE WE CAN ASSURE OURSELVES OF A GOOD PRODUCT". WALTER ALSO REPEATED EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT ANTIGUA HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY DIRECT BENEFITS FROM CARIFTA, AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT LOOK TO ANY OF THE CARICOM MDCS FOR ASSISTANCE SINCE MANY HAD MORE "POVERTY IN THEIR OWN BACKYARDS THAN ANTIGUA". INSTEAD, ANTIGUA LOOKED FOR

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AID "FROM THOSE WHO HAVE IN THE EARLY DAYS REAPED THE GOOD

FROM THE LAND".

2. COMMENT: THE GOA ANNOUNCEMENT, TOGETHER WITH THE
OPPOSITION OF MONTSEERRAT, EMPHASIZES THE GENERAL RELUCTANCE
OF THE LDCS TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO ANY LARGER GROUPING
WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR TO THEM TO PROVIDE ANY SPECIFIC
BENEFIT.
DONOVAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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